Description
Research into rural architecture in a historical context raises questions about the external influences and internal forces guiding the evolution of architecture, its typological characteristics, and the determining factors of spatial organisation and architectural production. Methods of different disciplines must be applied to understand the complex relationships between object, space, and human beings. An interdisciplinary approach is imperative. Ethnological, linguistic, archaeological, and sociological methods are just as important as exact measurements and documentation of the built environment, but a standardised approach does not yet exist.

The workshop is structured to include four thematic sessions and aims to highlight the complexity inherent in the topic of vernacular architecture and to promote interrelationships and exchanges between projects and disciplines.

A Vernacular Architecture
The definition of vernacular architecture is to be discussed in a session with an intentionally open geographic focus (topics: concepts of space, construction history, building traditions, materials, processes, social interactions in built space, relations between settlements and landscapes, etc.).

B Methods
How can we capture the complex relationship between environment, spatial organisation, and human interaction? This session focuses on the very different approaches of the various disciplines (topics: material culture, oral history, linguistics, documentation techniques, archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, photography, archival research, presentation of results, etc.).

C Architecture and Society
How can we benefit from mutual learning from ancient, historic, and contemporary societies? This session’s aim is twofold: examining the possibilities of linking research into ancient habitats with the investigation into contemporary settlements of the same area and detecting continuities and discontinuities in the material culture of regions over the centuries (topics: abandoned settlements, local heritage, ethnoarchaeology in settlement studies, etc.).

D Nubia
What defines Nubian culture in the 20th and 21st centuries? This session provides a regional focus, while broadening the discussion to relations beyond architectural research (topics: Nubian heritage in everyday life, history, language, geography, economics of Nubia, New Nubia, etc.).

In addition to lectures, discussion panels are scheduled to take place.

We also welcome the participation of junior researchers and experts without current research projects.

Contributions are welcome for a presentation of about 30 minutes. Please send us an abstract in English of no more than 500 words until 1 September 2018. Submissions should indicate the thematic session and include the name, affiliation, and contact details of the author(s). All applicants will be notified about the outcome of the selection process by 30 September 2018.

Participation is free of charge.

A limited number of participants may be granted a bursary to help cover their travel expenses.

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